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whole history of the half-century from 1800 to 1850 may be summarized in the life of this woman who during those fifty years exercised an important influence politically as well as intellectually and socially. To make a vivid picture of Madame Récamier involves therefore not the presentation of an individual portrait, but of a group, and a group so arranged that one figure shall stand out in the foreground.

The second difficulty arises from the subtlety of Madame Récamier's influence. Unlike her friend Madame de Staël she did not herself write but inspired others to literary effort, nor was her influence forceful and direct, but indirect and intangible. According to one of her admirers neither the pen nor the brush could adequately represent the graceful charm of her power; it could be represented only by music.

His own inability to meet this second difficulty M. Herriot frankly recognizes and for a delicate and really successful appreciation modestly refers his readers to Sainte-Beuve. What he does propose to do is to write a detailed and impartial history of the facts of Madame Récamier's life. For such an attempt there is ample room, since previous accounts were either written with a distinct bias, such for instance as Madame Lenormant's, or else deal with Madame Récamier only incidentally. But M. Herriot while realizing the impossibility of treating her apart from her contemporaries, proceeds to make her not a subordinate but the central figure of the group. Beginning with her childhood and early training, he traces her growing influence from its dawn under the Directory to its meridian under the Restoration and develops with elaborate care her relations to her endless series of lovers and admirers, naturally with special emphasis on Madame de Staël, Benjamin Constant and Chateaubriand. His judgment is on the whole decidedly favorable. Like Sainte-Beuve he gives full credit to her virtue and finds her ruling motive not in heedless ambition for power but in an eager and constant if sometimes thoughtless desire to give pleasure.

The treatment of the subject well accords with the title—*Madame Récamier et ses Amis*, but the reader can not help wishing that the friends were not made so prominent, in other words that M. Herriot had not drawn with quite such scrupulous attention to detail the minor figures of the picture.

The form of the book would be better moreover and the impression more vivid if the author had relegated to foot-notes some of the matter presented in the text, but the amount of hitherto unpublished material included and the elaborately annotated bibliography make the work a mine of information and an indispensable basis for any further study of Madame Récamier.

ELOISE ELLERY.

A History of Modern England. By HERBERT PAUL. Vol. III.
(London and New York: The Macmillan Company. 1905.
Pp. 454.)

THE third volume of Mr. Paul's history begins with the ministerial changes on the death of Lord Palmerston late in 1865 and ends with the

Parliamentary session of 1876 when the Ministry of all the Opportunities, otherwise that of Mr. Disraeli, was at the height of its power. It is a busy and important decade, the Continental upheavals of the Austro-Prussian and Franco-Prussian wars, the unification of Italy and Germany, the fall of the French Empire and the rise of the French Republic finding their complement in English affairs in that great period of reform which at once elevated and exhausted the new Liberalism during the early years of Mr. Gladstone's ascendancy. The tone and scope of Mr. Paul's work have already been discussed in these pages and the third volume of the series confirms the impression made by the first two. This is primarily a Parliamentary or political history of England, with such attention to legal, literary and religious movements, and such reference to foreign affairs as serve to illuminate the main theme. On the whole, matters become of importance to the author when they rise above the political horizon, and too often not till then. Even so, as we have already noted, there is still a striking absence of many social and economic data which we might otherwise expect, which, if not politics as yet, are or have been news, and so have some rights here on that ground if on no other. In the present volume an entire chapter on the Irish Church, another on the Church of England and still another on Theology and Literature, beside much passing comment on such matters elsewhere, shift the balance somewhat from that of the earlier volumes. This is the more true in that the stirring events of this crowded decade abroad give a special chapter to England and the Continent, aside from the main narrative. The Settlement with America traces in much detail and with perhaps too great disproportion of space the negotiations arising from the Alabama Claims. The spirit of fairness in which Mr. Paul's account is written could however ill be spared from the history of that once bitter controversy. Especially does his statement of the case reflect great credit on Mr. Adams. In conclusion, as usual, we have the chapter on Intellectual and Social Progress and the index. For the present volume in particular Mr. Paul has had the advantage of using Morley's *Life of Gladstone* and unusually numerous foot-notes indicate his large indebtedness to it, as well as to Walpole's *History of Twenty-five Years*. In the matter of opinions, so noticeable previously, time or some other agency seems to have somewhat softened the author's earlier rashness. Another volume has not much altered the impression of Napoleon III.'s "crooked mind and shallow heart," even in those last bitter days when he was "little more than a grey shadow, once a man, or at least a nephew." Of the other principal actors in that French tragedy Mr. Paul ascribes much credit or discredit to the Empress as well as to Gramont for the war. At the same time he holds up Thiers as, at least by implication, the principal figure standing between the new Republic and "reactionary Royalism" on the one hand and "intriguing Imperialism" on the other, a judgment which is, at least, open to question. For Bismarck, he has apparently much respect, if no great admiration for his ethical qualities. "For complete and absolute cynicism his proceedings at this time [the

Biarritz interview] are not surpassed even in his own career," though he is given credit for a clearer head and sounder mind than his French rival. And finally, not to prolong this matter, it is interesting to note the expression here of an opinion concerning Russia which, greatly helped by recent events in the East, is gradually making its way in the world, especially in England. It is that the reputation of Russian diplomacy for unscrupulous craft and abnormal subtlety derives little support from historic fact. This is, at least, healthier than its Russophobic rival.

It will be time to sum up this considerable achievement when the end is reached. But we may note that Mr. Paul's vigor seems unimpaired thus far, that his courage seems tempered somewhat more by discretion, and his politics diluted with somewhat more of those matters which find little place in Parliamentary debate or *Times* editorial. And if, in the long list of liberal achievements which fill the great reform period, the narrative tends to take on the character of a Parliamentary Digest, it becomes, thanks to Mr. Paul's clear head and vigorous English, little less interesting and rather more useful for that.

WILBUR C. ABBOTT.

Cavour. By DOMENICO ZANICHELLI. "Pantheon Series." (Florence: G. Barbèra. 1905. Pp. 427.)

ALTHOUGH Cavour still lacks a monumental biography, he has had several noteworthy books written about him. Beginning with Bonghi's brief sketch and Artom's introduction, one gets an impression of the importance of the man and of the magnitude of his achievement. Treitschke devoted a solid study, somewhat raspingly Prussian, to him. De Mazade analyzed, with insight and Gallic lucidity, his political career. Countess Martinengo Cesaresco made a model epitome, and William de La Rive in his *Souvenirs* produced one of the finest intimate biographies of modern times. Massari, whose work still remains the standard in Italian, is uncritical and diffuse, but he cannot be ignored, because he furnishes sidelights possible only to a contemporary. Finally, Chiala, in his exhaustive introductions and notes to the six volumes of "Letters", has amassed material of the greatest value. This list does not include Castelli's recollections, nor the various volumes of letters edited by Count Nigra, Baron Mayor and others; nor Berti's invaluable contributions to our knowledge of Cavour before 1848.

With this voluminous material as a basis, Professor Domenico Zanichelli, of the University of Pisa, has erected a solid analytical study of Cavour's work as a state-builder and diplomatist. He first furnishes in detail the principles which inspired Cavour's activity; then he shows how these principles were applied to the regeneration of Piedmont after 1849, how far the force of circumstances bent them, and how subtly in most cases they overcame opposition. Professor Zanichelli analyzes with remarkable clearness the intricate steps by which Cavour attained great results; and this needed to be done anew, for